ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

—OF THE—

SIXTY-EIGHT ANNUAL SESSION

—OF THE—

ALABAMA

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH

STEEP CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH, LOWNDES CO., ALA.,

On October 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th, 1887.

OFFICERS:

J. C. PLASTER, MODERATOR ..... Fort Deposit, Ala.
J. C. FONVILLE, CLERK ..... Mt. Carmel, Ala.
J. P. STREELY, TREASURER ..... Hayneville, Ala.

To meet with Union Church at Honoroville, Crenshaw County, Alabama, on Friday before the second Sabbath in October, 1888.

MONTGOMERY, ALA.:
THE ALABAMA BAPTIST PRINT.
1887.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Hear Letters from the Churches.
2. Call for petitions from Churches desiring membership
3. Elect Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer.
4. Invite visiting brethren to seats.
5. Appoint Committees to report during session, viz :
   - On Finance and Auditing.
   - On Documents and Requests.
   - On Nominations.
   - On Correspondence.
6. Call for Correspondence.
7. Have Rules of Decorum read.
8. Call roll and erase absentees.
9. Hear Treasurer's Report and refer.
10. Return Correspondence.
11. Hear Miscellaneous Business.
12. Hear Reports from Committees.
13. Give instructions about appropriations.
14. Make arrangements for printing Minutes.
15. Hear Circular Letters.
16. Correct Minutes and adjourn.

NAMES AND POST OFFICES OF MINISTERS.

ORDAINED.

J H Colley	Equality Ala.	O C Swindall	Good Hope Ala.
L H Hastie	Marble Valley "	J M Johnson	" " "
D S Martin	Equality "	G M Lowry	Stewartville "
T A Kelly	Rockford "	W T Steveman	Rockford "
W J D Upshaw	Electic "	J H Taylor	Irma "
B H Vickers	" "	J H Thompson	Good Hope "
A G Rains	Proctor "	J D Hughes	Rockford "
J W Fulmer	Mt. Olive "	R A J Cumbie	Alexander City "

LICENTATES.

J C Fulmer	Mt Olive Ala.	B W Caloway	"
G M Harrington	Good Hope "	J W Jones	Good Water "
J R Reems	Good Water "	S R Culpepper	Bulgers Mills "

MINUTES.

STEEP CREEK CHURCH, Oct. 7, 1887.

After the Introductory Sermon by Bro. F. C. Plaster and dinner, the delegates from the churches composing the Alabama Association were called to order.

The letters were read and delegates enrolled as follows;

Antioch--N F Perry.
Damascus--W C Avant, R J Smith, J E Rhodes.
Steep Creek--G W McQueen, T L S Grace, Willie Dickson.
Spring Creek--J A Stringer, J H Staggers, J B Taylor.
Hickory Grove--J C Fornville, J F Sims, D S Hurst.
Mountain Hill--J M Stevens, J S Stephens, H H Jones.
Chapel Hill--J H Lee.
Hayneville--J P Streety, G S Anderson.
New Bethel--T S Hagood.
Good Hope--J T Haigler, J Peagler.
New Smyrna--J H Porterfield, E S Perry, E N Dickens.
Hopewell--G W Coker, A A Barganier, D Lee.
Indian Creek--W H Cheatham, F M Rogers, Harry Shanks, W J Norsworthy.
Macedonia--F E May, Preston Ellis.
Rutledge--J E Helms, W M Swarnee, M W Rushton.
Union--J W Holloway, J G Thomas, T E Morgan.
New Ebenezer--C C Mothershead.
Bethel--F C Plaster, R M Burt, C H Priester, J E Bishop, J Norwood, A J Goldsmith, M P Dickens, A F Childers, J J Pipkin.
Lowndesboro--P N Cilley, R Meadows, Willie Meadows.

F. C. Plaster was elected Moderator, J. C. Fonville, Clerk, and J. P. Streety, Treasurer.

Siloam church from Zion Association, applied for membership, and was received.

Delegates: J. H. Keilough, J. E. Kolb, J. M. Hawkins, and J. B. Swarner.

Brother W. B. Crumpton represented the State Board and Missions generally.

Brother C. W. Hare represented the Alabama Baptist.

Committees were appointed as follows:

On Religious Exercises—W. H. Cheatham and delegates from Steep Creek church.

On Documents—J. W. Holloway, C. Priester and F. E. May.
On State of Religion in Churches—W. C. Avant, J. A. Stringer, C. W. Coker.
On Finance—C. W. Coker, D. Lee, T. S. Hagood, C. C. Mothershead.
Auditing Committee—R. J. Smith, E. N. Dickens, Taylor.
On State Missions—W. C. Avant, J. F. Sims, J. E. Rhodes, A. F. Childers.
On Periodicals—McQueen, Porterfield and J. E. Bishop.
On Obituary of Rev. D. Lee and Rev. M. Bishop—Plaster, Burt and Stringer.
Brother J. W. Perry was recognized from Zion Association.
Brother U. G. W. Powell was recognized from Montgomery Association.
Committee to Redistrict the Association—J. A. Stringer, J. G. Thomas and C. W. Coker.
Committee on Education—T. E. Morgan, C. Priester, R. M. Burt.
Delegates to State Convention—G. W. McQueen, W. P. Bullock, J. W. Holloway, C. W. Coker, W. H. Cheatham and F. C. Plaster.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning, after prayer by Brother Cheatham.

SATURDAY, Oct., 8—9 O'clock.

After devotional exercises by Bro, Morgan, the minutes of yesterday were read and approved.

Brother J. P. Nall, was recognized from the Centennial Association, and Brother Bass, from the church at Greenville.

Brother Stringer, read report redistricting the Association. Adopted.

Brother McQucen read report on Periodicals which after remarks by Brethren McQueen, Cheatham, Crumpton, and Hare, was adopted.

Brother Burt, read report on Sunday Schools. After discussion by Brethren Burt, and Cheatham, the report was adopted.

Brother Sims, read report on State Missions. Discussed by Brethren McQueen, Crumpton, Childers, Cheatham, Bass, Goldsmith and adopted.

Recess for dinner.

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2 O'Clock, P. M.

Reassembled. Brother McQueen read report of Executive Board. After remarks by Brethren Nall and McQueen, the report was adopted.

Brother Stephens of Mountain Hill, was granted leave of absence.

Brother Burt read report on Education. The report was discussed by Brethren Crumpton, Burt, Goldsmith, Cheatham, Bass, McQueen, Threadgill, Plaster, (Brother Fornville in the chair,) and adopted.

The Committee on Religious Exercises report that Bro. Cheatham conduct prayer meeting, at 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Sunday School address by Brother Burt, at 10; Brother Crumpton to preach at 11 o'clock, and Brother Nall at 2 P. M.

After prayer By Brother Avant, adjourned until 9 o'clock Monday morning.

Services on the Sobbath as arranged by the Committee on Religious Exercises.

MONDAY MORNING, 9 O'CLOCK.

Convened.

Prayer by Brother Nall.

The Minutes of Saturday were read and approved.

The Moderator announced the following committees to report next year:

On Missions--Burt, Coker, Bargainer.
On Sabbath Schools--McQueen, Gunn, Cheatham.
On Education--Avant, Childers, Threadgill.
On Religious Literature--Fonville, Hurst, Mothershead.
On Temperance—Morgan, Holloway, Roach.

Brother Childers offered the report on Missions, which was discussed by several brethren, and adopted.

Brother Holloway read Report on Documents. Adopted.

Took up a cash collection for the church at Rutledge, and pledges to assist Lowndesboro.

Selected Union church as the next place of meeting.

Brother Avant read the obituaries of Brethren Lee and Bishop.

The following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of the Association be tendered the brothers and sisters of Steep Creek church, and the citizens of the vicinity, for their kind, cordial and fraternal hospitality.

Brother Avant read the Report on State of Religion. Adopted.

Collected for Brother B. H. Crumpton.....$23 85
Collected for Rutledge church..... 15 00

Executive Board for ensuing year—G. W. McQueen, S. A. Satterwhite, W. P. Bullock, A. F. Childers, J. W. Holloway, Jacob Rhodes, D. D. Jones, J. A. Stringer, G. W. Coker, J. C. Fonville.

Appropriated ten dollars to Clerk for services.

To preach introductory sermon next session, Brother W. H. Cheatham.

To preach missionary sermon, Brother R. M. Burt.

One-half of the Sabbath collection to go to the State Board to be equally divided between the State, Home, and Foreign Missions.

Brother Plaster was appointed to write a circular letter.

The thanks of the Association voted Bro. F. C. Plaster as Moderator.

After the adoption of minutes and giving the parting hand the Association adjourned to meet with Union Church, at Honoroville, Crenshaw County, on Friday before second Sunday in October, 1888.

F. C. Plastec, Moderator.

J. C. Fonville, Clerk.

PLEDGES FOR ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS FOR 1887.

Antioch	$ 5 00
New Ebenezer	5 00
J. A. Stringer	5 00
J. H. Staggers	2 50
J. B. Taylor	2 50
W. P. Bullock	10 00
W. Grant	1 00
J. W. Dickson	5 00
B. F. Dean	2 00
T. L. S. Grace	2 00
S. A. Satterwhite	5 00
W. R. Relfe	5 00
M. A. Powell	5 00
J. M. Dickerson	2 00
G. Meadows	1 00
W. Atchison	1 00
R. S. Thomas	2 00
Sister Alford	2 00
" G. W. McQueen	5 00

" Ledbetter	3 00
" S Dickson	3 00
" M. A. Powell	5 00
" T. L. S. Grace	2 00
" M. Thomas	1 00
" E. H. Meadows	1 00
" N. Gordon	1 00
" M. E. Baltzer	2 00
G. W. McQueen	25 00
Hickory Grove	25 00
D. S. Hurst	15 00
Hopewell	15 00
Bethel	50 00
Macedonia	10 00
J. A. Robertson	10 00
Union	15 00
Rutledge	10 00
J. M. Hawkins	2 00

PLEDGES TO ASSIST LOWNDESBORO CHURCH TO BUILD A HOUSE.

G W McQueen	$25 00
A F Goldsmith	5 00
R M Burt	5 00
C H Preston	5 00
J C Fonville	5 00
W P Bullock	5 00

TO ASSIST BRO. PIPKIN.

G W McQueen	$ 5 00
I F Sims	5 00
J M Dickinson	2 50
C H Preston	2 50
W Grant	1 00
W C Avant	1 00
J W Harris, paid	5 00
J W Dickson	5 00
J W Holloway	2 50
F E May	2 50
W P Bullock	5 00
B F Dean	1 00
I H Staggers	2 50
J E Rhodes	2 50
D S Hurst, paid	2 00
J M Hawkins, paid	2 00
J C Fonville	2 00
J T Helm, paid	2 00
T L S Grace	2 00
T E Morgan	1 00
W H Cheatham, paid	1 00
D Lee	2 00
R M Burt	5 00
Mrs M A Thomas	50
Mrs S A Baltzer	50
Miss Jennie Rushton	50
" T A Bullock	50

" Mollie Sykes	50
S A Atchison	50
G V Grant	50
M A Powell	1 00
M C Ledbetter paid	50
A J Varner	50
M C Baltzer	1 00
Mrs G W McQueen	1 00
" S Carter	5 00

REPORT ON DOCUMENTS.

Your committee have had under consideration the letters and papers submitted to us, and beg leave to report that the church at Lowndesboro, with ten members, have raised six hundred dollars to build them a house of worship. We recommend that they be assisted by the Association.

The church at Rutledge asks help to complete their house. The church at Bethel has ordained J. J. Pipkin to the full work of the ministry, licensed Bro. M. P. Dickens, and ordained Brethren Norwood, Plaster, Priester, Bishop and Hairston. The church at Union licensed Bro. J. G. Thomas to preach. The church at New Smyrna licensed to preach E. S. Perry, and ordained Bro. J. H. Porterfield as Deacon.

Several of the churches ask that our articles of faith be printed in this year's minutes. It is also recommended that Bro. Plaster be continued as evangelist. Siloam Church, from Zion Association is received into the Association.

We are sad to notice the report of the death of Brethren Lee and Bishop.

The church at Damascus recommend to the favorable consideration of this Body Bro Pipkin in his efforts to secure an Education.

Union and Bethel asks the Association to meet with them next year.

J. W. Holloway
Chairman.

ORDAINED MINISTERS IN ALABAMA ASSOCIATION.

F. C. Plaster	Fort Deposit,	Ala.
G. S. Anderson	"	"
R. M. Burt	"	"
A. F. Goldshith	"	"
J. J. Pipkin	"	"
G. W. McQueen	Hayneville,	Ala.
W. H. Cheatham	Greenville,	Ala.
C. C. Lloyd	"	"
W. C. Avant	Rutledge,	"
T. E. Morgan	Honoroville,	"
W. C. T. Mosely		
J. T. Davidson	Honoroville,	"
J. E. Kolb	Rutledge,	"

LICENTIATES.

Louis Bates	Fort Deposit,	Ala.
J. G. Thomas	Honoroville,	Ala.
M. Pruitt	Port Deposit,	"
E. Perry	"	"
M. Dickens	"	"

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

Your Committee on Education have carefully considered this subject

and while we find many things to encourage us, yet we find other discouraging features.

Which attention is now being given to education. Every means are being used to give the youth of our land first class advantages. All denominations are pushing along this line and are sustaining their schools. The Baptist have in this State as fine schools as the State affords. Other denominations patronize their schools, more zealously than do the Baptist.

We urge upon our brethren the great importance of sustaining and patronizing Baptist institutions. As the instruction of our members in our denominational institutions greatly depend upon the ministry, we therefore. deem it of great importance that each minister with the bounds of this Association ought to do all in his power to instruct his people as to their duty in regard to sustaining institutions fostered by our Baptist brethren. The educalional institutions claiming our patronage are Howard College, Judson Female Institute and the Bethel Academy at Fort Deposit. The reason we mention the Bethel Academy, is because it is a preparatory school and within the bounds of our Association.

Respectfully submitted,

R. M. Burt, Ch'n.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE BOARD OF ALABAMA ASSOCIATION.

At last session of the Association there expressed satisfaction with the work of the Board and almost positive instruction to employ Brother Plaster, again. Soon after the adjournment of the Association we held a meeting, at which Brother Plaster informed us that he could not accept the work, which announcement was received with sorrow by the Board and we were at a loss how to proceed. Some time after we met again but could not agree as to the man to be employed. At a third meeting we had intimation that Brother Plaster, would accept the work of Evangelist for a part of his time, and we made a contract with him, for the time he could give to the work at the rate of $500.00 per year, which has been one half including a regular monthly service at Macedonia church.

The Evangelist reports work done with Chapel Hill. Sandy Ridge, Union, Steep Creek, Hayneville, Indian Creek, Siloam, Greenville, Good Hope, New Smyrna, New Bethel and at private houses.

He has aided in five protracted meetings, at which there were added twenty or more by baptism. He has labored about one hundred days, preached sixty sermons, fifteen exhortations visited and prayed with sixty families. He assisted in the ordination of three ministers to-wit: Lloyd, Bassett, and Pipkin, and several deacons. He assisted in the organization of one Sunday School, and traveled 470 miles.

We are pleased to report that we are able to meet our obligation to him. We recommend that the work be continued.

Respectfully submitted,

G. W. McQueen, Ch'n.

REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

Your Committee on State Mission beg leave to make the following report, The Board and Secretary will allow us to assure them that they have a cordial endorsement of the denomination in the State. As the new and increasing demands press upon us as Baptists of the State, we do appreciate the work of the State Board. The increasing population of our State as well as the increasing wealth of our Brethren alike demands the enlargement of the work of the State Mission Board. This cannot be done without enlargements of our contribution for State Missions. We most earn-

estly beg our churches to keep this fact in mind, and that for the ensuing year their contributions for State Missions should be materially enlarged. The period is peculiar and full of destiny for the cause of the Baptist of Alabama.

It is gratifying to note the noble work that is being done by the christian women of our State. These societies, raising money regularly and reporting through the churches should be encouraged. The State Board has established a Book Depository at Marion, and we recommend churches and Sunday Schools to secure their literature therefrom.

The demand for mission work in the State is greater than ever. The building of new railroads makes new towns. Every one of these ought to have a Missionary Baptist church. Brethren, we insist that we all bring our means as instuments in the hands of God, and put our shoulder to the wheels of Zion and ask God's blessing on the work in our State for all races of people for the glory of God our Father.

Respectfully submitted,

J. F. Sims, Ch'n.

REPORT ON OBITUARY OF BROTHER BISHOP.

Brother Matthew Bishop is dead. Our all-wise Father has seen fit to remove him from labor to rest, from care to contentment, from grief to joy, from earth to heaven. For a period longer than the average of human life, this faithful minister, within the bounds of this Association, preached "the glorious gospel of the blessed God." A sinner saved by grace, his heart was ever overflowing with gratitude to Him who "though He was rich, yet for our sakes became poor." He claimed no merit of His own ; his

"Hope was built on nothing less,
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness."

Our brother's life was one of usefulness, of self denial, of consecration.

As he lived by Faith, we know that when the message came, "Son, Thy Father calls, come home," he was not only ready, but willing.

We know that when his feet touched the nearer shore of that dark river whose mystic waters are called Death, he feared no evil, but having the rod and staff of God to comfort him ; with his hand in the hand of our Elder Brother, he crossed in triumph to the farther side and forever rests upon the "Banks of Sweet Deliverance."

His armor bright and burnished with service, is laid aside, and

"He dwells in peace at home."

F. C. Plaster, Chairman.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON OBITUARY OF BROTHER LEE

Your Committee beg leave to make the following report :

Whereas, It has pleased our Heavenly Father to remove from our midst our much esteemed and honored father in the ministry, Rev. David Lee ; therefore

Resolved, That we bow with humble resignation to the will of "Him who doeth all things well," fully believing that in removing our brother from earth He has simply transferred him to a place of joy and bliss prepared for him from before the foundation of the world.

While mourning his absence from us, we contemplate with joy the certainty of his present realization of the blessedness of having put his trust in the promises of our gracious Father. In putting off mortality for immortality, corruption for incorruption, he "crossed over the river and now rests under the shade of the trees." He rests from his labors. His heart and

tongue, so long accustomed to prayer, will now forever be given to praise. His faith is lost in sight; his hope in sweet fruition, and in

"That blest land upon whose blissful shore,
There falls no shadow, rests no stain;
Where those that meet shall part no more,
And those long parted meet again,"

he lives in the presence of Him whose smile is the feast of the soul.

F. C. PLASTER, Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON STATE OF RELIGION.

We, your committee, beg leave to make the following report:

We find from an examination of the letters, that there has been an increase, but a small one, in membership, of the churches composing our body. There are reported five Sabbath schools, two licentiates and thres deacons ordained.

We regret to note the seeming want of interest in the Sabbath school work, and the fact that there has been so few conversions, which makes us feel that we have allowed the world, and its cares, and its follies, to usurp the place in our hearts which should be so filled by God's Spirit as to enable us to become, in a much greater measure, victors in the battle with the evil one and his influences.

W. C. AVANT, Chairman.

TO ORGANIZE SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

In First District—J. G. Thomas.
In Second District—D. S. Hurst.
In Third District—G. W. Coker.
In Fourth District—W. H. Cheatham.

The following resolution was offered by Brother Cheatham:

WHEREAS, W. H. Dean, who was an ordained minister of the gospel in the Alabama Association, having connected himself with the anti-missionary church, is hereby declared no longer a minister in this Association.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

C. C. LLOYD, Treasurer, in account with Alabama Baptist Association from Oct. 8, 1886, to Oct. 8, 1887:

CR.

By amount voucher 15, (H. W. Caffey)	$ 20 00
By amount voucher 16, (New Bethel)	65
By amount voucher 17, (J. R. Strickland)	1 00
By amount voucher 18, (H. W. Caffey)	26 00
By amount voucher 19, (H. W. Caffey)	5 00
By amount voucher 20, (H. W. Caffey)	10 00
By amount voucher 21, (H. W. Caffey)	20 00
By amount voucher 22, (H. W. Caffey)	50
By amount voucher 23, (Damascus)	8 00
By amount voucher 24, (New Bethel)	4 50
By amount voucher 25, (Hayneville)	15 00
By amount voucher 26, (F. C. Plaster)	14 50
By amount voucher 27, (Report J. C. F)	31 50
By amount voucher 28, (Report F. C. P)	130 65
By amount voucher 29, (W. B. C)	15 75

1886.	DR.—CASH.	
Oct. 8.	To amount for minutes	31 50
	To amount for Home Missions	2 75
	To amount for Foreign Missions	6 15
	To amount for State Missions	6 85
	To amount for associational Missions	130 65
		$177 90

VOUCHERS.

Foreign Missions	$21 00
State Missions	31 65
Howard College	30 50
Paid to F. C. Plaster	42 00
	$125 15
Total cash and vouchers	$303 05

Audited and found correct.

R. J. SMITH.

REPORT ON PERIODICALS.

Your committee beg leave to report that the Alabama Baptist is the organ of the baptists of the State, and the only medium of communication for Baptists of this State, therefore it ought to be circulated generally that we might know the denominational news of the State. It ought also to be a medium for the impartation of a greater knowledge of the Lord God and His Word. by which there would be greater unity of His people in faith, love and practice. We, therefore, recommend it to the Brethren as worthy of their patronage. We also call the attention of our denomination to "Kind Words," as a good Sunday school paper, published by our Home Mission Board at Atlanta Ga. Also the Foreign Mission Journal, published by the Foreign Mission Board at Richmond, Va.. as a means to inform and interest us in Foreign Missions. G. W. McQUEEN,

Chairman.

REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Your committee would report that the letters show more Sunday schools than was reported last year, and trust that this great and important part of church work, is on the increase. We find that at the last meeting of this body, three churches only, were represented as having Sunday schools. At this session we find that more Sunday schools are mentioned, but we regret to say that too little interest is being taken in the Sunday school work. We think the Association ought to adopt some measures looking to the encouragement of this grand work. We would therefore recommend that one or more suitable brethren be appointed in each district to visit the churches of their respective districts and make Sunday school talks and assist in the organization of Sunday schools. Respectfully submitted.

R M BURT,

Chairman.

REPORT ON MISSIONS.

Your Committee on Missions beg leave to report, that during the past year the mission spirit has much increased, and we should feel thankful for the great results that have crowned the labors of our missionaries in all parts of the earth.

Our Foreign Mission Board, located at Richmond, with H. A. Tupper

Corresponding Secretary, is doing work in China, Italy, Brazil, Africa and Mexico, and the results are gratifying.

Home Mission, with I. T. Tichenor, Corresponding Secretary, Atlanta, Ga., is doing a grand work in Indian Territory, Florida, New Orleans and Cuba and other places.

We recommend Kind Words published by Home Mission Board, to our Sunday Schools as being very suitable literature for our children.

As there is a special committee on State Missions to report at this session of the Association we deem it expedient not to mention its work in this report, believing it to be one of the most important matters before our people.

The work of our missions in our own Association has been intrusted to a Board, appointed by the Association, and we refer to their report for information.

A. F. CHILDERS.

REPORT ON REDISTRICTING ASSOCIATION.

First District—Rutledge, Siloam, Demascus, Union, Chapel Hill.

Second District—Spring Creek, Mountain Hill, Hickory Grove, Macedonia, New Ebenezer.

Third District—Steep Creek, Lowndesboro, Hopevill, Hayneville, New Bethel.

Fourth District—Bethel, Indian Creek, Good Hope, New Smyrna, Antioch.

J. A. STRINGER.

DECLARATION OF FAITH

Of the Alabama Baptist District Association.

ARTICLE 1. OF THE SCRIPTURES.—We believe the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction(a); that it has God for its author (b); salvation for its end (c); and truth without any mixture of error for its matter (d); that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us (e); and therefore it is and shall remain to the end of the world, the true centre of Christian union (f), and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried (g).

(a) All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man fo God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works 2 Tim. iii, 16, 17. (b) For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man; but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. 2 Peter i, 21. (c) These things are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God: and that believing, ye might have life through His name.—John xx, 31. (d) For the word of God is right; and all his works are done in truth.—Psalms xxiii, 4. (e) God shall judge the secrets of men, according to my gospel.—Rom. ii, 10. And the dead were judged out of these things which were written in the books, according to their works·

Rev. xx, 12. (f) Though we, or an angel from Heaven, preach any other gospel unto you, let him be accursed.—Gal. i, 9. (g) If any man preach any other gospel unto you than ye have received let him be accursed--Gal. i, 19.

ART. II. OF THE TRUE GOD.—That there is one, and only one, true living God (a), whose name is Jehovah (b), the Maker and Supreme Ruler of Heaven and Earth (c), inexpressibly glorious in holiness; worthy of all confidence and love (d); revealed under the personal and relative distinctions of the Father, and the Holy Ghost, equal in every divine perfection (e), and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption (f).

(a) God is one.—Gal. iii, 20. (b) That men may know that thou, whose name is Jehovah, art the Most High over all the earth--Psalms lxxxiii, 18. (c) For by Him were all things created that are in heaven, that are in earth, visible and invisible.--Col. i, 16. (d) Who is like Thee, glorious in Holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders.--Ex. xv, 11. (e) For there are three that bear record in Heaven, the Father, the Word and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one.—1 John v, 7. For in Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.--Col. ii, 9. Who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God.—Phil. ii, 6. (f) God sent his son into the world, that the world through him might be saved.--John, iii, 17. Christ died for our sins, according to the Scripture.—Cor. xv, 3. And was raised again for our justification—Rom. iv, 25. He ever liveth to make intercession for them.—Heb. vii, 25. It is the Spirit that quickeneth.—John vi, 63.

ART. III. OF THE FALL OF MAN.—That man was created in a state of holiness, under the law of his Maker (a), but by a voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state; in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint, but by choice (b), being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, wholly given to the gratification of the world, of Satan, and of their own sinful passions (c); and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defense and excuse (d).

(a) So God created man in His own image.--Gen. i, 17. God made man upright.--Ex. vii, 39. (b) In Adam all die.--Cor. xv, 22. There is none righteous, no not one.--Rom. iii, 10. Ye are of your father, the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do.—John vii, 44. (c) He that believeth not is condemned already; because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotton Son of God.—John iii, 18. Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction.—2 Thess. i, 8. (d) And he was speechless.--Mat. xxii, 12. For the invisible things of Him, from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.—Rom. i, 20.

ART. IV. OF THE WAY OF SALVATION.—That the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace (a), through the mediatorial office of the Son of God (b), who took on him our nature, yet without sin (c); honored the law by his personal obedience, and made atonement for our sins by his death

(d); being risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in Heaven (e); and uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, is in every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate and an all sufficient Savior (f).

(a) For by grace are ye saved, through faith; and that no tof yourselves it is the gift of God.—Eph. ii, 8. (b) For there is one God, and one Mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus.—Tim. ii, 5. (c) For as much as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also took part of the same.—Heb. ii, 14. And in Him is no sin.—1 John iii, 5. (d) The Lord is well pleased, for His righteousness sake; He will magnify the law and make it honorable.—Isa. xiii, 21. We were reconciled to God by the death of His Son.—Rom. v. 10. (e) For we have an high priest that can be touched with the feeling of our infirmities.—Heb. iv, 15. For in him dwelleth the fulness of tha Godhead bodily.—Col. ii, 9.

Art. V. Of Justification.—That the great Gospel blessing which Christ in His fullness bestows on such as believe in Him is Justification (a); that justification consists in the pardon of sin and promise of eternal life, on principles of righteousness (b); that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through His own redemption and righteousness (c); that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures us every other blessing for time and eternity (d).

(a) Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ.—Rom, v, 1. (b) Whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins.—Acts x, 30. He that believeth in the Son hath everlasting life.—John iii, 36. Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood, to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God.—Rom. iii, 25. (c) Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy, He saved us by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost.—Titus ii, 5. (d) He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things.—Rom. vii, 32.

Art. VI. Of the Freeness of Salvation.—That the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel (a); that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial and obedient faith (b); and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, except his own voluntary refusal to submit to the Lord Jesus Christ (c), which refusal will subject him to an aggravated condemnation (d).

(a) Look unto me and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is none else.—Isa. xiv, 22. Whosoever will, let him take the waters of life freely.—Rev. xxii, 17. (b) Now He commandeth all men everywhere to repent.—Act xvii, 30. (c) Ye will not come unto me that ye might have life.—John v, 40. (d) It shall be more tolerable for the land of

Sodom in the day of judgment than for thee.—Mat. xi, 24.

ART. VII. OF GRACE IN REGENERATION.—That in order to be saved, we must be regenerated, or born again (a); that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind, and is effected in a manner above our comprehension or calculation, by the power of the Holy Spirit, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel (b); and that its proper evidence is found in the holy fruit we bring forth to the glory of God (c).

(a) Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God, John iii, 3. (b) And be renewed in the spirit of your mind. And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.—Eph. iv, 23, 24. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou heareth the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh or whither it goeth; so is everyone that is born of the Spirit.—John iii, 8. Every one that loveth is born of God and knoweth God.—1 John iv, 7. If a man love Me he will keep my words.—John xvi, 23. (b) For we are His workmanship, created in Jesus Christ unto good works, which God hath ordained that we shall walk in them.—Eph. ii, 10. We know that whomsoever is born of God sinneth not.—John v. 18.

ART. VIII. OF GOD'S PURPOSE OF GRACE.—That election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, sanctifies and saves sinners (a); that being perfectly consistant with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end (b); that it si a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely wise, holy and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitations of His free mercy (c); that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree (d); that it is ascertained by its effect in all who believe the Gospel (e), is the foundation of Christian assurance (f); and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves, demands and deserves our utmost diligence (g).

(a) God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation, through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.—Thess. ii, 13. (b) Therefore, I endure all things for the elect's sake, that they may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory—2 Tim. ii, 10. (c) According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.—Eph. ii, 4 (d) And they that are with him are called, and chosen and faithful.—Rev. xvii, 14. (f) Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is it that condemneth?—Rom. viii, 33, 34. (g) Wherefore the rather, brethren, give all diligence to make your calling and election sure.—2 Pet. i, 10.

ART. IX. OF THE PERSEVERANCE OF SAINTS.—That such only are real believers as endure unto the end (a); that

their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from the superficial professors (b); that a special Providence watches over their welfare; and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto Salvation (c).

a). Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil.—2 John iii, 9, 10. (b) They went out from us, but they are not of us.—John ii, 19. (c) God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that we may be able to bear it.—1 Cor x, 13. Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation, ready to be revealed in the last time.— 1 Pet. i, 5.

Art. X. Harmony of the Law and Gospel.—That the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of His moral government (a); that it is holy, just and good (b); that the inability which the scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts, arise entirely from their love of sin; to deliver them from which, and to restore them, through a Mediator, to unfeigned obedience to the holy law, is one great end of the gospel, and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible church (c).

(a) Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one title shall in no wise pass from the law till all be fulfilled.—Matt. v. 18. (b) Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, just and good.—Rom. vi. 12. (c) That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us who walk not after the Spirit.—Rom. vii, 4. Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid? Yea, we establish the law.—Rom. iii, 31.

Art. XI. Of a Gospel Church.—That a visible Church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel, observing the ordinance of Christ (a); governed by His laws, and exercising the gifts and privileges invested in them by His word (b); that its only proper officers are bishops, or pastors or deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the epistles to Timothy and Titus (c).

(a) Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, to all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints.—Rom. i, 7. Therefore we are buried with him by baptism unto death.—Rom. vi, 3. Paul, an apostle unto the churches of Galatia.—Gal. i, 2. For the children of God by faith in Jesus Christ. For as many of you as have been baptised into Jesus Christ have put on Christ. Gal. iii, 26, 27. (b) Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.—1 Cor., xiii, 4, 5. (c) A bishop then must be blameless.—1 Tim. iii, 1, 7. Likewise the deacons must be grave.—Tim. iii, 8, 5, 10; see, also, Titus i, 7, 8, 9. Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labor in word and doctrine; and the laborer is worthy of his reward. Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses.—1 Tim. 17, 18, 19.

ART. XII. OF BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER.—That Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water, in the name of the Father, Son and Spirit (a); to show forth, in a solemn and beautiful emblem of our faith in a crucified and risen Savior, with its purifying power (b); that to the Lord's Supper (c); in which the members of the church, by the use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ, preceded always by solemn self-examination (c).

(a) See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, if thou believest with all thy heart, thou mayest, and he said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And they went down into the water, both Philip and the eunuch and he baptized him.—Acts viii, 36, 37, 38. Go ye, therefore. and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.—Matt. xxviii. 19. (b) Buried with Him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with Him from the dead.—Col. ii, 42. (c) Jesus took bread and blessed it and brake it and gave it to the desciples. And upon the first day of the week, when the desciples came together to break bread.—Acts xx 7. For as oft as ye eat this bread and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come.—1 Cor. xi, 26. (d) But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup.—Verse 28.

ART. XIII. OF THE CHAISTIAN SABBATH.—That the first day of the week is the Lord's day, or Christian Sabbath (a); and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes, by abstaining from all secular labor and recreations (b); by the devout observance of all means of grace, both private and public (c); and by preparation for that rest which remaineth for the people of god (d).

(a) I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day.—Rev. i, 10. (b) Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.—Ex. xx, 8. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day; whrefore, the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.—Verse 11. (c) Upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came to break bread Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow—Acts xx, 7. (d) There remaineth, therefore, a rest to the people of God—Heb. iv, 9. Let us labor, therefore, to enter into to that rest—verse 11.

ART. XIV. OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT.—That the civil government is of divine appointment, for the interest and good order of human society (a); and that magistrates are to be prayed for (b); conscientiously honored and obeyed (c), except in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ (d), who is the only Lord of the conscience, and Prince of Kings of the earth (e).

(a) For there is no power but of God; the powers that be are ordained of God.—Rom. viii, 1. For he is the minister of God to thee for good. Verse 4. For the rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil.—Verse

3. (b) I exhort, therefore, that first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions and giving of thanks, be made for all men ; for kings and all that are in authority.—1 Tim. i, 1, 2. (c) Wherefore, ye needs be subject, not only for wrath but also for conscience's sake—Rom. xiii, 5. (d) We ought to obey God rather than men.—Acts v, 29. (e) Christ is the blessed and the only Potentate, the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords.—1 Tim. xi, 15.

Art. XV. Of the Righteous and the Wicked.—that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked (a); that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of God, and truly righteous in his esteem (b) while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked and under the curse (d); and this distinction among men, both in and after death (e).

(a) He that is not with me is against me.—Luke xi, 23. Now, if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His.—Rom. viii, 9. In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother 1 John iii, 10. (b) To declare, I say, at this time, his righteousness, that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.—Rom. iii, 26. But ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our Lord.—Cor. vi, 11. (c) Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. Luke xiii, 3. He that believeth not is condemned already.—John iii, 18. (d) He that is unjust let him be unjust still, and he that is filthy let him be filthy still, and he that is righteous let him be righteous still, and he that is holy let him be holy still. —Heb. xxii, 11.

Art. XVI. Of the World to Come.—That the end of this world is approaching (a); and at the last day Christ will descend from Heaven, and raise the dead from the grave to final retribution (b); that a solemn separation will then take place (c); that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy (d); and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteoueness (e).

(a) But the end of all things is at hand; be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.—1 Peter iv, 7. (b) For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with a voice of the archangel and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first.—4 Thess. iv, 6. All that are in their graves shall hear His voice and shall come forth; they that have done good unto the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation.—John v, 28, 29. (c) And before Him shall be gathered together all nations, and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats.—Matt. xxv, 32 (d). And these shall go away into everlasting punishment; but the righteous into life eternal. —Matt xxv, 32. (e) And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them; ank they were judged, every man according to his works; and death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.—Rev. xx, 13, 14. Shall not the Judge of all the Earth do right ?—Gen. xviii 25.

FORM OF CHURCH LETTERS—RECOMMENDED FOR USE BY THE CHURCHES.

The Baptist Church of Christ at——, to the Central Baptist Association :

DEAR BRETHREN : We have appointed as delegates to your body,——————, and as alternates—— —— ——

STATISTICS.

Baptized, ———; Received by letter, ———; by vouchers, ——; Restored ——; Dismissed by letter, ——; Died, ———; Excluded, ——; Number of members, ———; Increase. ——; Decrease, ———.

Number of officers and teachers, ——; number of scholars enrolled, ——; average attendance of all, ———; number of teachers baptized during the year, ———; number of scholars baptized during year, ———; number of months open, ——; number of volumes in Library, ———; number of Sunday School papers taken, ———; Contributions for school expenses, ———; Contributions for benevolent objects, ———.

Have you a prayer meeting, and how often does it meet ?

We send contributions as follows : For Minutes $—; Home Missions cash, $———; State Missions, cash $——; Foreign Missions, cash $———., Ministerial Education cash, $——; Aggregate, $——; Total, $————.

Of which $——— is to redeem previous pledges for——, Pastor, ————; Clerk, ———; Clerk's post office, ——; County, ———.

Sabbath meeting, ———

[Here make brief mention of Revival, Ordination, Licenture, Death of Members, or other matter of importance.]

By order of conference,———

————————, Moderator.

————————. Clerk.

Date.

FINANCIAL TABLE FOR ALABAMA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, 1887.

Churches.	Home Missions.	Foreign Missions.	State Missions.	Indigent Ministers	Howard College.	Minutes.	Associational Evangelization.	Cash.	Vouchers.	Total.
Antioch			12 50			1 50	2 80			
Bethel	3 93	37 67		50	3 70	2 50	20 05			
Chapel Hill			8 00			1 50				
Damascus						2 00	7 00			
Good Hope						1 50				
Hayneville						1 00	20 00			
Hickory Grove			18 00			1 50	25 00			
Hopewell						1 95	27 65			
Indian Creek						1 50	1 00			
Lowndesboro			4 00			1 00				
Macedonia						1 00	15 00			
Mountain Hill						1 00				
New Bethel			1 00			60	5 00			
New Ebenezer		1 00				1 50	3 00			
New Smyrna						1 00	3 00			
Rutledge			2 00			2 00	3 15			
Steep Creek	2 00	2 75		1 00		2 35	37 60			
Spring Creek						2 40	15 00			
Union	1 00	1 00				2 50	3 00			
Siloam						1 50	3 20			
Bro. Sims						2 35	6 00			
D S Hurst						2 50	10 00	273 05	124 30	397 35
Total	$ 6 93	$ 42 42	$45 50	1 50	$ 3 70	$30 65	207 45	$ 273 05	$ 124 30	$ 397 35

ALABAMA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION'S STATISTICS FOR 1887

Churches.	County.	Pastors.	Clerks.	Post Office of Church Clerks.	Membership last Reported.	Increase by				Decrease by				Present Membership.	Sunday School			Preaching Sabbaths	Reports Prayer Meeting.	Revival Reports.	Names of Ch'rches received from other Associations.
						Baptism.	Letter.	Experience.	Restoration.	Letter.	Exclusion.	Erasure.	Death.		Officers and Teachers.	Pupils.	Volumes in Library.				
Antioch	Butler	T E Morgan	J P Gafford.	Greenville.	55	2				9	1			47				1		year	
Bethel	Lowndes.	G S Anderson	W P Rice	Fort Deposit		20	7			6	2		3	2 26	10	80		3–4	year	year	
Chapel Hill	Crenshaw	J E Kolb.	W H Rodgers	Cooks' Stand	15	3	1				3			18	6	25		1			
Damascus	Butler	F C Plaster	S F Andress	Greenville.	91	4	2			9				88	4	28		3		1	
Hayneville	Lowndes.	G S Anderson.	F C Williams.	Hayneville.	31					6			1	24				1			
Hickory Grove	Montgomery	G W McQueen	J C Fonville	Mt Carmel.	25				1	1				25				3			
Hopewell	Lowndes.	F C Plaster	D Lee	Mt Willing.	1 11	26	1		1	5			2	1 32	3	35		1		1	
Indian Creek	Butler.	R M Bart	W J Norsworthy.	Greenville.	62	1	1			6				55				4			
Lowndesboro	Lowndes	G S Anderson.	R B Cilley	Lowndesboro	14					4				10				1			
Macedonia	Lowndes	F C Plaster	F E May.	Fort Deposit		1	4							25				2			
Mountain Hill	Crenshaw.	F E Morgan	H H Jones.	Strata	14			6		1			1	18				3			Siloam Ch.
New Bethel	Lowndes	J F Bruner	J R Strickland	Braggs.		3	2							35	2	15		1			from Zion
New Ebenezer	Crenshaw.	F E Morgan	G Vickery	Best		3					1			46				2			
New Smyrna	Lowndes.	J J Pipkin.	R J Porterfield.	Fort Deposit		9	7		1	3			2	44				4	1		
Rutledge	Crenshaw	W C Avant.	W M Swarner	Rutledge.		2				1				26		78		1			
Steep Creek	Lowndes.	G W McQueen.	J M Dickinson.	Morganville	64	3	4		1	2	6			64				1–4			
Spring Creek	Crenshaw.	G W McQueen	A J McDanial	Best	76	4	3			11	1			70				2			
Union	"	W C Avant.	J W Holloway	Honorville		2	1			6	5		4	50		35		4	1		
Good Hope	Butler	R M Bart	R E Peagler	Greenville.	17									17				2			
Siloam	Crenshaw.	M C Avant	E Kolb											78				3			
Totals					5 75	83	33	6	4	70	17		13	1 098	25	2 96			2	2	

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